

The Maggie

Written by Bill Rose

From a story by Alexander Mackendrick

The following, which has been lightly edited, appears at the start of The Maggie's official post-production script:

Dramatis Personae

Marshall	PAUL DOUGLAS
The Skipper	ALEX MACKENZIE
The Mate	JAMES COPELAND
The Engineer	ABE BARKER
The Wee Boy	TOMMY KEARINS
Pusey	HUBERT GREGG
Campbell	GEOFFREY KEEN
Miss Peters	DOROTHY ALISON
The Reporter	ANDREW KEIR
Sarah	MEG BUCHANAN
The Laird	MARK DIGNAM
Dirty Dan	JAMESON CLARK
C.S.S. Skipper	MOULTRIE KELSALL
Sheena	FIONA CLYNE
Barmaid	SHEILA SHAND GIBBS
Campbell's Secretary	BETTY HENDERSON
Hailing Officers	RUSSELL WATERS
	DUNCAN MACINTYRE
Inverkerran Driver	RODDY McMILLIAN
Highland Innkeeper	JACK MACQUIRE
The Constable	JOHN RAE
Skippers	JACK STEWART
	ERIC WOODBURN
Inspectors	DOUGLAS ROBIN
	R. B. WHARRIE
Hired Car Driver	DAVID CAMERON
Postmistress	CATHERINE FLETCHER
Harbour Master	WILLIAM CRICHTON
Aircraft Pilot	ANDREW DOWNIE
Gillie	HERBERT C. CAMERON
Davy MacDougall	GILBERT STEVENSON

MARSHALL

The American millionaire who, in an effort to retain the affections of his wife, is having alterations made to a house on the beautiful island of Kiltarra, in the North of Scotland, as a present for her birthday. It is the material for these alterations (including four baths) that comprises the cargo the Maggie is taking to Kiltarra. He is a business man of some importance, ruthless and uncompromising when it suits him. However, his experiences on the journey (including his encounter with the beautiful Sheena on Bellabegwinnie), together with the influence of the Wee Boy, teach him that money does not buy everything, and that human relationships are more important. So that when it comes to the choice between the wrecking of the Maggie, and the jettisoning of the cargo, he chooses the latter, realising that the Maggie means much more to the crew (despite the fact that only a very short while before he had tried to buy it up so as to take his cargo himself and then sell the puffer for junk) than his cargo can ever mean to himself. He goes to meet his wife empty-handed.

THE SKIPPER

The wily, crafty Captain of the puffer Maggie. He tells lies, drinks a lot and is deceitful. Nevertheless, when an emergency arises, such as fog, or when the Maggie is on the rocks, he is capable and efficient. He is devoted to his old broken-down puffer The Maggie, on which he was born.

THE MATE

The young man who takes turns at the wheel. Light-hearted, he is very fond of the girls, and spends a lot of time lying on the deck playing the concertina.

THE ENGINEER

We call him the Engineman throughout the film. He quarrels a lot with the Skipper, grumbles a great deal about the Maggie and her shortcomings and is always threatening to resign. But he never does, as he too is very attached to the Maggie.

THE WEE BOY

The keen young lad who does all the cooking, mending and cleaning on the puffer. He is loyal and devoted to the Skipper – so much so that he even attempts to murder Marshall because he is going to take the puffer away from his beloved captain. He is very sharp, and doesn't hesitate to steal when tempted. He longs for the day when he can take over the wheel. He stands up to Marshall, and it is he who stops the millionaire from taking back the cheque which the Skipper has reluctantly offered to return. It is he who foresees the danger from the subway when the Maggie is sailing from Glasgow, and it is he who foresees the accident to the pier at Loch Mora when Marshall's plans to take the cargo away from them are foiled.

PUSEY

Marshall's Public Relations Officer. He is well-meaning but ineffectual and is bound up in his own red tape. This involves him in a number of awkward situations where his well-meaning plans come to nothing.

CAMPBELL

The Manager of the shipping service C.S.S., Ltd. While he is very helpful and co-operative in trying to find a boat for Marshall so that he can take his cargo off the Maggie, he is highly delighted by the exploits of the Skipper and his crew, and the way in which they outwit Marshall.

MISS PETERS	The capable, efficient Secretary who works for Marshall. She has not a very high regard for him as a man, and only continues to work for him because he doubled her salary.
THE REPORTER	We call him Frazer throughout the film. He covers the exploits of the Maggie for the Evening News, and shares the affection most people in Scotland have for the old puffers, which, he says, are traditional. Therefore, his reports are not very favourable to Marshall.
SARAH	The Skipper's sister. She fights to get her share of the money because her brother has outwitted her many times. She runs him down to Marshall and has not a good word to say for him. Yet she refuses to sell in any circumstances when approached by Pusey – a feeling that is very difficult for Marshall to understand.
THE LAIRD	The owner of the land on which the Mate and the Wee Boy poach pheasants, and who is thrown into the Canal by Pusey when they struggle.
DIRTY DAN	The owner of the public house in Glasgow where the C.S.S. skippers tease the Skipper and crew about the Maggie. He throws the Wee Boy out of the bar when he starts hitting one of the captains.
C.S.S. SKIPPER	We call him Jamieson in the film. He is one of the skippers employed by C.S.S., and who has a regular five-day week – in contrast to the Skipper of the Maggie.
SHEENA	The beautiful nineteen-year-old girl at Bellabegwinnie who dances with Marshall all the evening. Afterwards, when they are sitting outside, she confides in him about her boy friend and how she finds it difficult to choose the right

one. She tells him that she will marry the fisherman who will have time for her, in preference to the handsome money-maker who will have no time for her. Marshall is very moved by this, as he rarely has time to see his wife.

BARMADE

The Mate kisses her in the public house in Glasgow.

CAMPBELL'S SECRETARY

She shares the general mirth about the exploits of the Maggie.

HAILING OFFICERS

At Glasgow Docks. They spot the entrance of the Maggie at the beginning of the film, and the same puffer under the name of Calvin B. Marshall at the end.

INVERKERRAN DRIVER

He drives Marshall from one port to another in an effort to catch the Maggie, and then charges an exorbitant price when they finally catch up with her at Inverkerran.

HIGHLAND INNKEEPER

At Loch Mora. He puts the idea into the Skipper's head to take the guests to Davy MacDougall's hundredth birthday party.

THE CONSTABLE

He arrests Pusey after the poaching incident, and also informs him at the Police Station that he will be tried by the very same Laird whom he pushed into the canal.

SKIPPERS

Belonging to the C.S.S. service who take part in the teasing of the Skipper and crew in the public house near Glasgow Docks.

INSPECTORS

They condemn the Maggie because she has plates which need to be repaired.

HIRED CAR DRIVER	He helps to catch the puffer at the Crinan Canal. At the same time, he rubs salt in the wound for Marshall by extolling the exploits of the puffers, especially the Maggie and her skipper.
POSTMISTRESS	At Bellabegwinnie.
HARBOUR MASTER	He tries to stop the puffer at Greenock, but fails.
AIRCRAFT PILOT	He flies Marshall when he chases the puffer.
GILLIE	We call him the Factor who fetches the Constable when the Laird is trying to find the Wee Boy and the Mate poaching, and then helps to pull his master out of the canal.
DAVY MACDOUGALL	The old Highlander who celebrates his hundredth birthday, and for whom there is a party at Bellabegwinnie.

Synopsis

The Maggie is the story of an old puffer and her crew, and how they outwitted the endeavours of an American millionaire to stop them from taking his cargo to Kiltarra, an island in the North of Scotland.

The crew is comprised of the Skipper, a wily, but capable veteran of the coastal trade; the Engineman, who argues and quarrels with the Skipper, and is not very competent; the Mate, who loves women; and the Wee Boy, a young lad of about fourteen, who has a deep love for the Maggie, and respect for, and devotion to, the Skipper, and who has a sensible head on his shoulders.

When they arrive in Glasgow at the beginning of the picture, they are told by the Inspectors that the Maggie is finished, and that unless they get her plates repaired, they will not be permitted to carry cargo any longer. As this will cost £300, there seems to be no prospect of overcoming this difficulty.

Now, the Maggie is part-owned by the Skipper and part-owned by his sister, Sarah. They are in Glasgow unbeknown to her, because the Skipper owes her a lot of money. However, in order to try and raise the £300, they all go up to the C.S.S. Office, which is managed by Campbell. They intend to suggest to him that he buys a part ownership in the old puffer. Campbell is just dashing out to lunch, leaving Pusey distraught because he has not found a boat to take his master's cargo to Kiltarra.

The crew overhear him tell his master, Marshall, of World International Airways, that there is not a boat available. Skipper signals to Pusey, and tells him that there is a boat. Naturally thinking that the Skipper is part of the C.S.S. service, he puts him on the line to Marshall. The Skipper makes the arrangements with Marshall, even promising to insure the cargo for £4,000.

Pusey is not very happy in his own mind, but asks to be shown the boat. By mistake, he boards the large C.S.S. boat which is lying next to the Maggie, and thus some of his fears are set at rest. He explains that the cargo is a personal one, and comprises a quantity of crates of building materials which is being sent to Kiltarra for renovations to be made to a house there. This is a secret surprise for Mrs. Marshall's birthday: Skipper, at the suggestion of the Engineman, quotes £300. Pusey, rather taken aback, agrees and pays £50 deposit in cash. He hurries back to London, asking Skipper to get Campbell to phone him to say that the cargo has got away all right (still thinking that the Maggie is part of the C.S.S. service).

The crew decide to get away quickly before the mistake is discovered, and although the tide is very low, they set sail as soon as it is dark. The Wee Boy points out the danger over the subway when the tide is very low, and even as the crew shout at him to keep quiet, there is a terrific crash, and the Maggie is stuck on the

subway. Next morning, with crowds watching and while Skipper is engaged in a slanging match with the river police, Frazer, a young reporter from the Evening News, appears with his photographer.

Consequently, speaking to Pusey on the phone, Campbell reads about the mishap in the paper. Pusey has rung up to find out if the cargo has got away, and Campbell then enlightens him that the Maggie is not part of the C.S.S. service, but is just an old puffer – an old puffer that is at this moment stuck in the subway. Campbell, his Secretary and a C.S.S. Captain roar with laughter and are highly amused, but not so Pusey, who is horrified. Summoned to the inner sanctum of Marshall's office, he tries to explain away his mistake. But Marshall brushes him aside, and learning that his precious cargo is stuck in the subway, he takes Pusey and Miss Peters, his Secretary, to Glasgow, and there arranges to meet Campbell.

The Manager of C.S.S. visits the hotel, accompanied by Frazer, and also by Sarah, who is very angry. While Campbell and Marshall are discussing the matter, Pusey and Miss Peters try to pacify the old woman, not very successfully. Campbell has explained to Marshall that the puffer has no radio – indeed, she usually carries only coal – and the only way in which they can catch the Skipper is by phoning all the harbour masters on the route. Marshall is going to tell Pusey to get on with the job of phoning up these harbour masters, when he is attacked by Sarah. But it is when he sees Frazer and finds out that it is he who has written the story in the paper, that he explodes.

Meanwhile, the Maggie has got away from the subway, and reaches Greenock. But as soon as the Harbour Master calls Skipper over the loud hailer and tells him to phone Marshall at the Central Hotel in Glasgow, he just turns round and sails out again.

Marshall is furious, and charts an aeroplane to chase them. He catches them as they are going through the Crinan Canal. He tells them to return to Ardrishaig where the cargo will be transferred to another boat, and leaves Pusey aboard to see that this is done. He returns to Glasgow, and is discussing the newspapers stories with Frazer, when Campbell rings up to say that the Harbour Master at Ardrishaig has reported that no puffer has returned, and almost immediately another phone call comes through from Pusey, informing Marshall that he has been arrested for poaching

And this is how it happens. When Marshall and Pusey stop the puffer at the Crinan Canal, the Mate and Wee Boy are poaching pheasants. Pusey and Engineman go to look for them. All, except Pusey, return safely to the Maggie. For he, much to the delight of the crew, has been arrested, but before he is, he has thrown the Laird into the Canal while struggling to escape. He now faces the prospect of being tried by the same Laird, who is also the magistrate for the area. However, he is later released.

The Maggie proceeds on its way, and Marshall again charters an aeroplane to find it. Finally, he catches up with them at Inverkerran. When he phones Campbell, the latter asks that the puffer be taken back to Oban so that the cargo can be transferred to a C.S.S. boat there. On the way, there is a fog, and they have to put in at Fiona Bay. At neighbouring Loch Mora, Marshall phones Campbell, who tells him that a cattle boat will be calling at the old ruined pier there to pick up some cattle.

After the cargo has been unloaded from the Maggie, the Wee Boy notices that the Maggie is lying in such a way, that there is likely to be an accident. As indeed there is. As soon as Marshall notices the position, he tells the Skipper to move the Maggie out. The Skipper obeys, tearing the pier apart. So Marshall, almost hysterically, tells him to bring it back. The Skipper obeys, crushing the old pier. The result is that the cattle boat cannot reach the cargo, and Marshall is now at the mercy of the Skipper. The latter says that he can only go on if he is sure that he will be able to complete the journey, and to make sure of this, he would appreciate the balance of the money. Marshall gives him a cheque.

The journey is broken by a trip to Bellabegwinnie, where old Davy MacDougall is celebrating his hundredth birthday. Skipper deceives Marshall and tells him that the visit is for the purpose of picking up coal. In fact, he takes a number of the MacDougall family to the party. It is here that Marshall phones his wife, who now knows the secret, and who thinks the whole idea is silly. He begs her to fly out to Kiltarra, but she slams down the receiver before replying. Marshall then tries to get the Skipper away from the party, fails, goes back to the Maggie, tries to work, but is drawn irresistibly by the music and returns to the party. He makes the company laugh by the remark he makes to old Davy, and is picked out by the prettiest girl to dance with all the evening. Her name is Sheena and she confides in him outside. For she is only nineteen, and has the task of choosing a husband from two men. She finally tells him that she will choose the simple fisherman because he will have more time for her when his work is done, in preference to the handsome business man who will go far, but will spend a lot of time thinking and planning his work. He will not have so much time for here although he will probably be able to give her everything she needs. This strikes home for Marshall, and he leaves her, very disturbed.

Next day, infuriated by the procrastinations of the Skipper, he phones Pusey and tells him to find Sarah and buy up the Maggie. Confident still of the power of money, he returns to the crew, tells them what he has done, and goes back to the Maggie. The Wee Boy follows him, argues with him, and then lets down the table which has been hooked to the side of the cabin, knocking Marshall out. When he tells the crew what he has done, they are stupefied. But it turns out that Marshall is only stunned.

Meanwhile, Pusey has found Sarah and phones to the Post Office, leaving a message for Marshall to say that she refuses to sell in any circumstances.

As soon as Marshall recovers consciousness, which is when they are quite near to Kiltarra, he asks to see Wee Boy, and tells him that he nearly killed him. Wee Boy says he is sorry for what he did – only he would do it again, because it was a terrible thing to leave the Skipper ashore without his ship. Anyway, he says, Sarah has refused to sell.

At that moment, the engines stop, and the Engineman and Skipper are heard in furious argument. It appears that they are in dangerous waters and the connecting rod is damaged. Marshall mends it, and as the Engineman turns on the steam, the Maggie lands on the rocks.

Skipper explains that the cargo will be all right, and that he will easily get another boat to come and pick up the crates as they are now very near to Kiltarra. When Marshall realises that the Maggie will be destroyed if she is left on the rocks, but could be saved if the cargo is jettisoned, he tells Skipper to throw the stuff overboard. He still tells him to do it when Skipper informs him that he did not get around to insuring the cargo.

Thus the Maggie arrives at Kiltarra without the cargo, much to the amazement of Pusey and Frazer. Conscience-stricken, Skipper offers to return the cheque, and Marshall is about to take it, when the Wee Boy points out that he might as well have let the Maggie sink, as she is useless without the £300 required to get her plates repaired. So Marshall gives in, and walks up the hill, empty-handed, to his wife who awaits him.

The next time that the puffer appears in Glasgow, it is under the name of Calvin B. Marshall – and we still hear the Skipper and Engineman arguing.